

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /114 W

-----095810 140448Z /10

R 131055Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7345

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 2176

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PDEV, ECON, SU

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTS IN COMBATING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SUDANESE ARMED FORCES ARE BEING TASKED TO ASSIST IN OVERCOMING CERTAIN SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD DCM RECENTLY THAT MILITARY ARE BEING USED TO MOVE \$25 MILLION WORTH OF PEANUTS FROM WESTERN SUDAN. HE SAID MILITARY TRUCKS WILL BE USED TO TAKE PEANUTS TO EL OBEID WHERE THEY CAN BE PLACED ON RAILWAY FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO PORT SUDAN. GOVERNOR CENTRAL BANK CONFIRMS 20,000 TO 100,000 TON ALREADY MOVED. IN ADDITION HE SAID C-130S HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED TO MOVE URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD AND FUEL TO SOUTHERN SUDAN.

2. COMMENT: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF PEANUTS COULD NOT BE MOVED TO PORT SUDAN BECAUSE OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

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AND THIS WAS PARTICULARLY FRUSTRATING GIVEN SUDAN'S PRESSING NEED FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF SERIOUS FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN BAHR EL-GHAZAL PROVINCE. NOT SURPRISING THAT MILITARY, WHICH IS PROBABLY MOST EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION IN COUNTRY, IS BEING USED TO OVERCOME URGENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM SERIOUS TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.

BERGUS

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Message Attributes

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